

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2018

The Honorable Brock Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

I write you today in support of the State of Nevada's application for assistance under the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) program for the damages caused by the South Sugarloaf Fire. The State of Nevada is appealing its recent denial by your agency, and I strongly urge you to immediately review this appeal to ensure that all of Nevada's communities, both urban and rural, have the proper funding to mitigate the damages caused by wildfire.

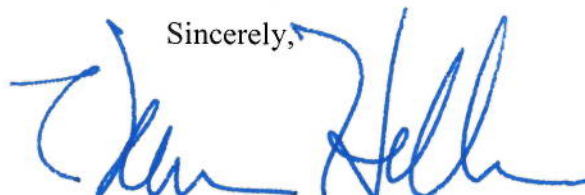
The South Sugarloaf Fire burned over 230,000 acres of land in Northeastern Nevada, causing destruction to private property and public lands alike. As a result, Nevadans have lost access to public lands for grazing, energy development, and other multiple-use purposes. This fire has also caused damage to private lands, resulting in many of my constituents being placed under mandatory evacuation as the blaze grew in size and speed.

I would also like to reiterate my concerns with the eligibility criteria for a wildfire to qualify for assistance under the FMAG program. While I have expressed to you my support for this program, I have concerns that the current eligibility standards for FMAG may put my state's rural communities at a disadvantage. In order to qualify for FMAG, your agency requires a threat to life and property, including threats to critical infrastructure and critical watershed areas.

As the senior Senator from a state that is 85 percent managed by the federal government, many of my constituents rely on federal lands for their livelihood, which I do not believe is weighed adequately when determining FMAG eligibility. When reviewing the State of Nevada's application, I respectfully ask that your agency take into consideration the severe consequences of the South Sugarloaf Fire on our public lands, including the loss of lands for grazing, energy development, and any other factor that has a significant economic impact in the region.

I look forward to your prompt response to the State of Nevada's appeal as well as my previous letter sent on August 28, 2018, and I will continue fighting to ensure that FEMA's policies and procedures are beneficial to all Americans, including Western states like Nevada.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator